(e) whether the prices of Ice-cream have gone up after the entry of Multinational Corporations in the field ;

(f) if so, the details thereof ;

(g) the steps taken to control the increasing prices ; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Government have not issued industrial licences to any large company with foreign equity for manufacture of ice-cream.

(b) to (h) In view of (a) above, do not arise.

**Debt Relief Scheme in A.P.**

3486. SHRI B. DHARMA BIKSHAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

The total amount given under Agriclutural and Rural Debt Relief Scheme to Andhra Pradesh so far ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : As per data available from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) the total amount of debt relief provided to borrowers in Andhra Pradesh under the Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief Scheme, 1990 was Rs. 882.66 crores.

**Exemption under Income from Agriculture**

3487. SHRI RAM SAGAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of income-tax payers in Delhi ;

(b) the number and details out of them who have sought income-tax exemption on income from Agriculture during the last three years ; and

(c) the amount of exemption sought and the amount exempted during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The number of income-tax payers in Delhi is as under :

| | |
|---|---|
| As on 31.3.94 | 6.76 lakhs |
| As on 31.3.95 | 6.24 lakhs |
| As on 31.3.96 | 6.24 lakhs |

(b) and (c) As per Section 10(1) of Income Tax Act, 1961, agricultural income is not includible in the total income of any person. However, in the case of an Individual, Hindu Undivided Family, Association of Persons, Body of Individuals and Artificial Juridical Persons if the net agricultural income of previous year exceeds six hundred rupees and the non-agricultural total income exceeds the exemption limit, such net agricultural income is aggregated with the total income for determining rate of income tax on non-agricultural total income. The details of cases involving aggregation of agricultural income and the amount of net agricultural income aggregated are as under :

| Financial Year | No. of cases | Amount of net agricultural income aggregated |
|---|---|---|
| 1993-94 | 635 | Rs. 42270(000) |
| 1994-95 | 633 | Rs. 42548(000) |
| 1995-96 | 867 | Rs. 48263(000) |

**Burn Standard Company Ltd.**

3488. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total strength of workers and staff of the Refractory units of Burn Standard Co. Ltd. before it was taken over by Government and also as on date unit wise ; and

(b) the number of workers and staff who have accepted retirement under voluntary retirement scheme alongwith the details of rate offered ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The strength of staff and workers of Refractory units before take over and also as on 31.7.96 is as under :

| Unit | Staff and workers strength before take over | Staff and workers strength as on 31.7.96 |
|---|---|---|
| Rani-Ganj Group of works | 2469 | 1115 |
| Gulfarbari | 840 | 373 |
| Jabalpur | 945 | 297 |
| Niwar | 345 | 213 |
| Salem | 2983 | 1406 |

(b) The number of workers and staff who have accepted retirement under voluntary retirement scheme are as under :

| Unit | Staff | Workers | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Raniganj Group | 4 | 642 | 646 |
| Gulfarbari | — | 294 | 294 |
| Jabalpur | 3 | 106 | 109 |
| Niwar | — | 30 | 30 |
| Salem | 11 | 453 | 464 |

Details of VRS benefit offered are as under :-

1. One and half month basic & DA for every completed year of service

or

2. Basic & DA X balance months of service left ; whichever is less.

*[Translation]*

**Beekeeping by K&VIC**

3489. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount spent on beekeeping by Khadi and Village Industry Commission and other such Government institutions during the last three years ;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted to find out the scope of development and conservation of beekeeping industry in Bihar and particularly at Chhotanagpur ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The details of total amount spent on beekeeping by KVTC during the last three years is :

| Year | Amount in lakhs |
|---|---|
| 1992-93 | 73.98 |
| 1993-94 | 74.52 |
| 1994-95 | 52.73 |

(b) No Sir. No survey has been conducted in the recent past for the development of beekeeping industry in Chhotanagpur in Bihar State.

(c) Does not arisre

*[English]*

**Global Depository Receipt**

3490. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the particulars of the companies both in the private and public sectors who were allowed to float global depository receipt (GDR) issue during 1995-96 and 1996-97 (uptill date) ;

(b) the approximate amount in foreign currency mopped up by them from GDR issue ;

(c) the manner in which the funds raised by them were utillsed ; and

(d) the precautions being taken by the Government to ensure the proper utilisation of funds mobilised through GDR issues by way of repatriation to the country or investment abroad ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) The details of companies in the private and public sectors who were allowed and successfully launched GDR issues and the foreign exchange raised by them during 1995-96 and 1996-97 till date are as follows :

| Year | No. of companies | Amount raised in US $ million |
|---|---|---|
| 1995-96 | 7 | 616.25 |
| 1996-97 | 6 | 545.89 |

(c) The permissible enduses of the GDR issue proceeds in accordance with the latest guidelines announced by the Government interalia include

i) financing capital goods imports;

ii) capital expenditure including domestic purchase/ installation of plant, equipment and building and investments in software development;

iii) prepayment or scheduled repayment of earlier external borrowings;

iv) investments abroad where these have been approved by competent authority;

v) equity investment in Joint Ventures/Wholly Owned Subsidiaries in India;

vi) Upto a maximum of 25% of the total proceeds may be used for general corporate restructuring, including working capital requirements of the company raising the GDR

Bank, Financial Institutions and Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) registered with the Reserve Bank